

LONDON-WEST MIDLANDS ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

Volume 5 | Technical Appendices

CFA25 | Castle Bromwich and Bromford

Baseline report (CH-001-025)

Cultural heritage

November 2013

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Environmental topic:	Cultural heritage	СН
Appendix name:	Baseline report	001
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1 Introduction

1.1 Structure of the cultural heritage appendices

- 1.1.1 The cultural heritage appendices for the Castle Bromwich and Bromford community forum area (CFA25) comprise:
 - baseline report (this appendix);
 - a gazetteer of heritage assets (Volume 5: Appendix CH-002-025);
 - impact assessment (Volume 5: Appendix CH-003-025); and
 - survey reports (Volume 5: Appendix CH-004-025).
- 1.1.2 Maps referred to throughout the cultural heritage appendices are contained in the Volume 5 cultural heritage map book.

1.2 Content and scope

- 1.2.1 This baseline provides the evidence base against which the assessment of assets that may be affected by the Proposed Scheme can be determined. It contains information about known and potential heritage assets from a variety of sources and presents a chronological description and discussion of the development of the study area, placing assets within their historical and archaeological context.
- Section 8 of the Scope and Methodology Report (SMR) (see Volume 5: Appendix CT-001-000/1) describes the methodology used in the assessment of the likely significant impacts and effects upon heritage assets and the historic environment associated with the construction and operation of the Proposed Scheme. Only locally specific detail is presented here for ease of reference and clarity.

1.3 Study area

- 1.3.1 In accordance with the SMR, the setting of all designated heritage assets within 2km of the centre line of the Proposed Scheme has been considered. The study area within which a detailed assessment of all assets, designated and non-designated, has been undertaken is defined as the land required to construct the Proposed Scheme plus 250m.
- 1.3.2 All identified assets are listed in Volume 5: Appendix CH-002-023 and shown on Maps CH-01-156a to 160 and CH-02-154b to 157a (Volume 5).

1.4 Data sources

Sources examined as part of this baseline assessment include published secondary sources, cartographic sources, Historic Environment Record data for undesignated heritage assets and English Heritage National Heritage List data for designated assets. A full list of published sources can be found in section 9.

1.5 Surveys undertaken

- 1.5.1 The following surveys were undertaken as part of the EIA process:
 - LiDAR survey of the majority of the land required for the Proposed Scheme and land around it (see Volume 5: Appendix CH-004-025);
 - hyperspectral survey of the majority of the land around the Proposed Scheme (see Volume 5: Appendix CH-004-025);
 - a programme of non-intrusive surveys including geophysical prospection (see Volume 5: Appendix CH-004-025); and
 - site reconnaissance field inspections to review the setting of historic assets and the character and form of the historic landscape.

2 Geology, topography and landform

2.1 Landscape and topography

- The study area is located within the River Tame valley which passes east-west through the area. Settlement activity is characterised by the historically established residential districts of Castle Bromwich on the higher ground on the south side of the river, whilst to the north the dominant character is of 20th century industrial and commercial activity including the modern residential areas of Castle Vale. The river valley is prone to flooding and therefore largely free of development. This has provided the opportunity for a historical transport route way to be established, utilised first during the 19th century by the railway and subsequently by the M6 during the 20th century.
- The land falls generally from the west to the east with a pronounced scarp at the east end of the study area at Park Hall Wood which rises to 106m above Ordnance Datum (AOD) before gently falling away again to the east.

2.2 Geology

- The underlying solid geology predominantly comprises Mercia Mudstone, with two areas of Mercia siltstone: one aligned north-west to south-east on the southern side of the M42 at Langley Hill Wood and the other straddling the M42 and A452 at Park Hall Wood, west of Water Orton. The Arden Sandstone Formation occurs within the Mercia Mudstone Group as a thin horizon of siltstone and sandstone and within the study area is reported by the British Geological Survey (BGS) to lie at approximately 20m depth at the western end of the study area.
- At its eastern limits, the study area crosses the southern side of the River Tame valley, which is a steep topographical feature (15-20m high). The geology in this area (approximately 3.8km west of the B4118 Birmingham Road along the route to directly south of the existing Birmingham and Derby Line at the River Tame crossing point) comprises Triassic Mercia Mudstone with bands of dolomitic sandstone and siltstone (skerries).
- 2.2.3 The Bromsgrove Sandstone Formation, which is part of the Sherwood Sandstone Group, is present to the west of the Birmingham Fault across the north-western parts of the study area.
- This solid geology is overlain by widespread deposits of alluvium and river terrace deposits associated with the River Tame. Superficial alluvium generally overlays glacial deposits from around Park Hall nature reserve to the western end of the study area. The thickness of this layer varies, but locally it can be up to approximately 6m. In addition, there are areas of river terrace deposits present on the northern side of the River Tame valley near Park Hall nature reserve and Hayward Industrial Estate. These deposits also extend to Bromford between A452 Chester Road and south of the Fort Shopping Centre. In the eastern part, from Park Hall Wood to the North Warwickshire Borough Council (NWBC) administrative area boundary, an area of sands and gravels is present.

- The superficial glacial deposits comprising sands and gravels form a discontinuous covering over the solid geology and lie beneath the 'made ground' that sits across the upper parts of the River Tame valley sides. The geological map indicates glaciofluvial deposits to be present at Park Hall.
- 2.2.6 Throughout the study area, there are significant areas of 'made ground', a result of intensive industrial land use of the area. Much of this 'made ground' is expected to have been derived locally from land raising, as part of general development, as well as highway and railway earthworks in the area. Areas of particular note include the Birmingham and Derby line, the M6, and areas of infilled pits in the Park Hall nature reserve.

2.3 Boreholes

2.3.1 A review of historic boreholes and historical land use within the study area suggests a potential for survival of palaeo-environmental remains, in particular within alluvial deposits within the valley bottom.

Palaeo-environmental potential

2.3.2 Within the study area 33 boreholes have been identified with palaeo-environmental potential. Alluvium was recorded to be present directly beneath the existing ground level in 18 of the boreholes, ranging between 0.5-6m in depth. Many of these alluvial deposits were recorded beneath deposits of 'made ground' ranging between approximately 0.5-8m in depth.

Historical land use

- 2.3.3 Ground disturbance has occurred throughout the study area from both historical land use activities and previous archaeological investigation, which has resulted in areas of negligible palaeo-environmental and archaeological potential.
- 2.3.4 Within the study area 14 landfill sites (e.g. at Castle Vale, Castle Bromwich, Minworth, Walmley, Erdington and Nechells), two brickworks and two gravel pits are known. These are presented in Table 1.
- 2.3.5 Archaeological evaluation at Farnborough Road, Castle Vale, recorded dumped deposits (deposits created by the deliberate placing of material) and subsoil being located 2.25m below ground level. No further archaeology was identified.¹

¹ Roberts, H. M. (1996) Farnborough Road, Castle Vale, Birmingham: An Archaeological Evaluation. Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit, Project No. 454

Table 1: Historic landfill and pit sites within the study area (shown on maps LQo1-66 to LQo1-68)

Site details	Size	National Grid Reference (NGR) (site centred)
Castle Vale:	•	•
Landfill - Castle Vale Tip, Farnborough Road	8.6ha	E415400, N291200
Landfill - sports ground off Farnborough Road	14.5ha	E415300, N291200
Castle Bromwich:		
Landfill - Castle Bromwich Waste Treatment Site, Tameside Drive	5.2ha	E414600, N90500
Landfill - Langley Drive, Tameside Drive	10ha	E414200, N290300
Minworth:	L	
Landfill – Forge Lane	1.1ha	E414300, N292100
Walmley:		
Landfill – Plantsbrook Reservoir, Kendrick Road	1ha	E413800, N292100
Landfill – Eachelhurst Road	o.3ha	E413700, N292200
Erdington:	l	
Landfill – Holly Lane	5.1ha	E 412000, N 291400
Brickworks/Landfill – Nocks site, Holly Lane	6.4ha	E412000, N291400
Nechells:		
Landfill – Nechells Substation, Watson Road	1.6ha	E410300, N289800
Gravel pit	N/A	E410041, N289870
Ward End:		
Brickworks/Landfill - Bromford Lane	5.5ha	E411900, N289100
Hodge Hill:		
Landfill – Stechford Hall Park, Coleshill Road	8.9ha	E412700, N288300
Landfill – Heathlands Primary School, Heath Way	1.1ha	E414000, N289100
Gravel pit - Bromford Road	N/A	E412154, N289173
Stechford:		
Landfill – Rockland Drive site	2.7ha	E413100, N287900
Shard End:	1	
Landfill – land south of Brook Meadow Road	6.3ha	E414500, N288600
Landfill – Cole Hall Lane, former Yardley Sewage Works.	4oha	E414700, N288100

•

3 Archaeological and historical background

3.1 Early prehistory

In Birmingham, early prehistoric activity is largely evidenced through artefact finds, such as stone axes, flint arrowheads and pottery. These artefacts are more often recovered from sand and gravel quarries, and from within river terraces. No early prehistoric remains are known within the study area; however, it is possible that as-yet undiscovered remains dating from this period may exist.

3.2 Later prehistory

- Later prehistoric activity of the Bronze Age and Iron Age within the study area is 3.2.1 represented by burnt mounds at Berwood, located near to Chester Road (CBBo56) and Park Hall adjacent to the River Tame (CBBo32). Burnt mounds are piles of heated fragmented stone and charcoal that are believed to have been used to heat water, however, they sometimes can include other material such as pottery, animal and human bone.3 Whilst rare in England, thousands of burnt mounds are known in Ireland, located along low-lying river valleys and it is assumed that burnt mounds identified in England were situated in similar locations. It has been suggested that these mounds may be indicators of nearby domestic settlement located on higher, drier ground. 5 The significance of these assets lies in their historic and archaeological value. The relative lack of prehistoric archaeology in the study area and the Birmingham area in general means that the evidence that does survive provides valuable information on the utilisation of the landscape during the prehistoric period. The discovery of a number of burnt mounds within the study area and beyond can provide useful information on the later prehistoric activity within the landscape, although evidence of the occupation sites with which these are associated is unclear.
- During the Iron Age period, Birmingham lay at the junction of three Iron Age tribal groups the Corieltauvi to the east, the Cornovii to the north-west and the Dobunni to the southwest. Although aerial photography has provided evidence of enclosed settlements and hillforts within the West Midlands region; evidence of settlement in the Birmingham area is limited.

² Buteux, S.T.E. and Lang, A.T.O. (2002) Lost but not forgotten: the Lower and Middle Palaeolithic occupation of the West Midlands in West Midlands Regional Research Framework for Archaeology, Seminar 1 - Earlier Prehistory: the Palaeolithic to the Bronze Age

³Bradley, R. (2005) *Ritual and Domestic Life in Prehistoric Europe*. Routledge; Hodder, M. (2002) *Burnt mounds and beyond: the later prehistory of Birmingham and the Black Country*. West Midlands Regional Research Framework for Archaeology, Seminar 2

⁴ Ehrenberg, M.R. (1991) Some Aspects of the Distribution of Burnt Mounds, 41-58, in Hodder, M.A. and Barfield, L.H. (eds) 1991, Burnt Mounds and Hot Stone Technology. Papers from the Second International Burnt Mound Conference Sandwell, 12th-14th October 1990, Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

⁵ Hodder, M. (2004) *Birmingham the Hidden History*. Tempus

⁶ Esmonde Cleary, S. (2011) The Romano-British Period: An Assessment, 127-147, in Watt, S. (ed) *The Archaeology of the West Midlands, A Framework for Research*. Oxbow; Hodder, M. (2004) *Birmingham the Hidden History*. Tempus

⁷ Hurst, D. (2011) Middle Bronze Age to Iron Age: A Research Assessment Overview and Agenda, pg.101-126, in Watt, S. (ed) *The Archaeology of the West Midlands, A Framework for Research*. Oxbow

⁸ Hodder, M. (2004)

3.3 Romano-British 43-410

- 3.3.1 A number of major Roman Roads pass through the Midlands region Watling Street, which connects London (Londinium) to Wroxeter (Viroconium Cornoviorum) and thence to Chester (Deva); Fosse Way, which connects Seaton in Devon through Leicester to Lincoln (Lindum); and Ryknild Street, which connects Bourton-on-the-Water, Alcester (Alauna) and Metchley (Edgbaston) and from there north to Wall (Letocetum), and eventually to Rotherham.
- Roman activity within the study area is evidenced by a timber structure, pits and finds of Roman pottery located beneath the eastern ramparts of Bromwich Castle. The remains are likely to be associated with defence of a river crossing point and provide an interesting example of continuity of purpose between the Roman remains and those of the medieval castle.

3.4 Early medieval 410-1066

- 3.4.1 There is generally little evidence for early medieval settlement activity within Birmingham. Place-name evidence suggests that Birmingham may have early medieval origins, meaning 'homestead of the Beormingas (people of Beorma)'. During this period the landscape of the River Tame valley was heavily wooded, which resulted in an area of low density settlement, especially as the soils were generally unattractive for agriculture. It was only during the medieval period that these woodlands began to be cleared enabling the establishment of manorial parks and estates as is evidenced at Castle Bromwich and at Park Hall.
- 3.4.2 The settlement of Castle Bromwich (CBBo50) may have early medieval origins as indicated by place-name evidence but there is little other evidence to support this. The possible early medieval origins of Castle Bromwich give this asset significance through its archaeological and historic value. Further investigation of this asset could provide useful information on early settlement activity and land use. The location of the settlement near the remains of the Roman river crossing point could also provide information about continuity of occupation following the retreat of the Roman army in the 5th century.

3.5 Medieval 1066-1540

3.5.1 At the time of the Domesday Survey, Birmingham was part of the Coleshill Hundred (a large administrative subdivision of land) together with 49 other settlements that included Aston, Curdworth and Castle Bromwich. Birmingham constituted an insignificant agricultural settlement, with nine peasant households sharing two plough teams and supporting a population of approximately 50 people. Indeed, it was Aston that was recorded to have been a more established and a larger settlement during this period.¹⁰

⁹ Cameron, K. (1997) English Place-Names. Batsford

¹⁰ Morris, J. (ed) 1976, *Domesday Book: 23 Warwickshire*. Phillimore

- 3.5.2 Castle Bromwich was originally a hamlet within the Aston parish and was not separately recorded in the Domesday Survey. In 1186 the hamlet was known as Bramewice, a name which derives from the Old English word Brom- meaning broom with the suffix of wic added which means 'where the brooms grow'. A motte and Bailey castle, a scheduled monument (CBB044) was constructed probably during the 12th century and the presence of the castle is first acknowledged in the Placita de quo Warranto of 1285 in which the settlement is referred to as Magna Bromwyce, the pre-fix Magna meaning 'great'. The castle was constructed on the high ground overlooking the River Tame on its south side and was able to control the point where the Chester Road crossed the river.
- 3.5.3 Excavations at the castle carried out in the 1970s confirmed the earthen motte was constructed with a flattened top upon which a timber tower was constructed., the motte then survived to a width of 30m at the base and 7m in height, but road widening and construction of the M6 have encroached upon the monument which now remains to a height of 4.5m. The bailey extends some 50m to the east with a ditch some 10m wide and 1.5m deep. No other traces of the bailey remain. The castle seems to have continued in use throughout the medieval period with evidence for a Tudor building located to the south of the motte.
- 3.5.4 In the 13th century, land at Castle Bromwich and neighbouring hamlets, including Park Hall and Dudley Castle, were held by Roger de Somery. The manor comprised land between the rivers Tame and Cole extending from Bromford Lane in the west as far as Kingshurst and Water Orton in the east.¹³
- The manor of Castle Bromwich was endowed with a church by the 13th century and the Church of St Mary and St Margaret (CBBo49) still stands, although substantially remodelled in the 18th century. Castle Bromwich Hall (CBBo46) was constructed during the late 16th century by Sir Edward Devereux, a member of the Ferrers Family. From 1657, the hall was enlarged and remodelled in a classical style and set within landscaped gardens (CBBo35) and a number of outbuildings including a stable block (CBBo41) pigeon house (CBBo40) and bakehouse (CBBo43).
- 3.5.6 The manor of Park Hall, or The Lodge, was first recorded in 1365, and in 1405 was referred to as Le Logge juxta Bromwich; it is believed to have originated as a hunting lodge located within the extensive deer park (CBBo12) that had been established to the east of Castle Bromwich. The moated manor was granted to the Arden family in 1373 and became the chief seat of the family with other manors in Birmingham, Bordesley and Saltley. Saltley.

¹¹ Salzman, L.F. (ed) 1947, A History of the County of Warwick: Volume 4: Hemlingford Hundred. Victoria County History

¹² Ekwall (1960) The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names. 4th Ed

¹³ Dutton, J. (2006) Castle Bromwich – Its History. North Arden Local History Society

¹⁴ Dutton, J. (2008) Castle Bromwich in Times Past – Part 2. North Arden Local History Society

¹⁵ Dutton, J. (2006)

- Park Hall moated site (CBo2o) was located on the high ground above the River Tame valley, but by 1589, the site became abandoned. In the late 17th century, a new hall was built in brick and located to a new site on the south side of the River Tame on the valley floor. Archaeological excavations in 1976 at the site of the earlier Lodge did not reveal any evidence of building foundations, and the suggestion is that the earlier buildings may have been dismantled for re-use at the new site. 17
- 3.5.8 Agricultural activity associated with the manor comprises a number of possible leats, areas of ridge-and-furrow, including one area of broad ridge-and-furrow located east of the refuse disposal works, which may have been a water meadow (CBBo31), a hollow way (CBBo33) and the site of the sandstone bridge over the River Tame (CBBo15). Occupation at the site continued throughout the medieval period and into the post-medieval period and a number of other structures including a walled garden (CBo18) and dovecote were added (CBo14). In 1884, a historian's observations of the Park Hall estate referred to it as "being sited opposite a hill that was studded with wild cherries, roses and honeysuckle. The river 'gentle Theomis' ran by the garden wall and the bottom of the woods, filled with gigantic oaks, ash, beech and fir trees; and wild flowers and fish was abundant". 18
- 3.5.9 All of the individual assets within the Park Hall estate, when taken together contribute to the understanding of this area and help to create a rounded picture of a medieval estate. The areas of ridge and furrow (CBBo5, CBBo21, CBBo29, CBBo31, CBBo80, CBBo82 084, CBBo87, CBBo94) and the evidence of drains, leats and water management systems (CBBo3, CBBo88 090, CBB092, CBB093, CBB095 097) contribute to the understanding of the relationship in the medieval period between areas of high status settlement and land required for agricultural purposes. The archaeological assets of the Park Hall Great House (CBB020), the walled garden (CBB018) and the dovecote (CBB014) give the ability to understand how a high status dwelling evolved throughout the medieval and post-medieval period and how the residents of this estate conducted their lives, including their social and leisure, highlighted by the deer park (CBB012). These assets, although of archaeological significance in their own right when analysed as an associated group, have a greater significance due to the increased legibility and understanding of the function and form of an intact medieval estate.
- 3.5.10 During the medieval period, woodland and heathland within the Arden area was assarted (land cleared and enclosed for use), and a large number of moated homesteads and farmsteads were established. The moated sites at Berrandale Road (CBBo59), Haye Hall (CBBo66), Erdington Hall (CBBo72) and Berwood Hall (CBBo43) are all evidence of this period of land clearance and settlement as is also the site of a deer park at New Park, Minworth (CBBo13).

¹⁶ Wrathmell, S.P. (1976b) *Park Hall Moat, Castle Bromwich (SP/158 904)*. West Midlands Archaeological News Sheet 19

¹⁷ Wrathmell, S.P. (1976) *Park Hall Moat, Castle Bromwich*, 1976 Excavations Report

¹⁸ Green, C.W. (1984) Castle Bromwich (Warwickshire) in *Times Past. Chorley*: Countryside Publications

¹⁹ Edwards, E (1992) *Medieval Market Town of Solihull 1200 – 1580*. Ma (Masters)

- 3.5.11 The site of Erdington Hall and moat (CBBo72) is located in Stockland Green, the manor developed from a small early medieval fortified homestead. The hall is situated near the Bromford Bridge crossing of the River Tame, and was the residence of the de Erdington family. The timber-framed manor house was fortified with an unusual double-moat on three sides of the house, with the river to the rear. By 1650, the house was replaced by a brick mansion with Dutch gables, but lost its status by 1858 and was then occupied by a farmer, William Wheelwright. Although still occupied as a farm in 1908, the house had been demolished by 1912.²⁰
- 3.5.12 Berwood Hall (CBBo34) was first documented in 1160, when Sir Hugh de Arden gave his manor, Berwood, to the Abbey of St Mary at Leicester as a monastic grange (a farm run by lay brothers for the benefit of the monastery). The manor remained in the possession of the abbey until the Dissolution in 1540 when it was then sold to the Arden family. ²¹ In common with many other moated halls, Berwood Hall fell into decay by the late 17th century. A new farmhouse was built south of the moated site and ownership of the manor continued until it was sold in part in 1881, with the remainder in 1888, to the Birmingham Tame and Rea Drainage Board. Archaeological excavations in 2002 found no evidence of features associated with the former hall and moat. ²²
- 3.5.13 Medieval activity elsewhere in the study area is known from the hamlet of Bromford End (CBBo69) which includes the site of a watermill (CBBo67). The River Tame is crossed at Water Orton and the surviving stone built bridge, a scheduled monument (CBBoo4) dates to c 1520. The current bridge replaces an earlier structure first recorded in 1459. The new bridge was funded by Bishop Vesey and the bequest is recorded on his tomb. The bridge has solid parapets and six round headed arches with cutwaters on both sides.
- The significance of all of the assets identified from the medieval period is the historical 3.5.14 and archaeological evidence they provide for an area of relatively high occupation and activity. When compared to the lack of evidence from the prehistoric, Roman and early medieval period, the evidence from the study area indicating medieval settlement is abundant. The assets have historical value in showing the pattern of manorial land ownership in this area. The two distinct manorial sites at Castle Bromwich and Park Hall show how the system of manorial land ownership developed, in particular as Park Hall may once have been part of the Castle Bromwich estate, then created as its own manorial seat. The assets within Park Hall, perhaps even more so than Castle Bromwich, represent a capsule of medieval activity. The site of the moated manor together with all of its ancillary features; the site of the walled garden, dovecote and all later features all contribute to the understanding of a medieval estate. The assets within Park Hall have the potential to provide information on medieval architecture and design, methods of construction, social hierarchy and material culture and as such, they represent an important group of features. The same can be said of Castle Bromwich, however later construction has removed much of the medieval evidence.

²⁰ Jones, D. (1989) The Story of Erdington – From Sleepy Hamlet to Thriving Suburb. Westwood Press

²¹ Salzman, L.F. (ed) 1947

²² Krakowicz, R. (2002)

3.6 Post medieval 1450-1901

- 3.6.1 The post-medieval period saw a growth in the exploitation of natural resources and with it, the establishment of Birmingham as an industrial centre. The growth of Birmingham during the 17th century and into the 19th century led to the subsequent expansion of the sub-urban areas to incorporate neighbouring settlements including Castle Bromwich.²³
- 3.6.2 The early growth of Birmingham was assisted by a converging pattern of important local transport routes that included roads from Coventry, Warwick, Stratford, Worcester, Wolverhampton and Lichfield. During the 18th century Castle Bromwich benefitted from its position at the junction of two turnpike roads. The Broughton-Chester-Stonebridge Turnpike Trust was set up in 1759 and the route is in part preserved by the present Chester Road. The road became part of a nationally important route running past, though not through, Birmingham and linking London via Coventry and Stonebridge to the major seaport of Chester. The Birmingham and Fazeley canal built in 1789, between Birmingham and Tamworth passes through the study area on the north side of the valley and enabled the transport of goods and materials into and out of the city and access to a wider network and greater markets.
- The Birmingham and Derby Junction Railway (B&DJR) passes through the study area on the north side of the River Tame. The original plan was to provide a route from Derby to London, terminating at Hampton-in-Arden where trains could join the London and Birmingham Railway (L&BR) into Birmingham. However an abridged route with no branch line to Hampton was agreed, the bill was submitted to parliament in 1836 and the railway was completed in 1839. Following competition from the Midland Counties Railway of a new branch line through the Erewash Valley, the B&DJR submitted a new bill in 1840 to open their Hampton Branch, known as the Stonebridge Railway, which ran from Whitacre to Hampton in Arden with intermediate stations at Castle Bromwich, Water Orton and Coleshill terminating at Lawley Street, Birmingham.
- 3.6.4 The B&DJR was short lived and was amalgamated with the North Midlands Railway under the direction of George Hudson. By 1844 disagreements with the Midland Counties Railway had also been resolved and the two companies joined to form the Midland Railway. ²⁵
- 3.6.5 The arrival of the railway changed the character of the Park Hall estate and led to its ultimate demise. The construction of the railway necessitated the re-routing and canalising of the River Tame moving it northwards from alongside Park Hall Wood to run adjacent to the railway line. The railway also cut across the route to Minworth, a tunnel was built under the line and a new iron bridge over the river.
- 3.6.6 The assets from the early modern period provide evidence of the gradual change in character of the study area, from rural to industrial and residential and the amalgamation into the urban sprawl of Birmingham. They have historic value in the evidence they provide for the growing transportation network which in turn provided the catalyst for rapid growth and expansion of Birmingham.

²³ Hodder, M. (2004)

²⁴ Watt, S. (2001)

²⁵ Boynton, J. (2002)

3.7 20th century/modern 1901-present

- 3.7.1 The Castle Bromwich Aerodrome was founded in 1909 and was requisitioned for use by the Royal Flying Corps in 1914. In the inter-war period the aerodrome continued in both civilian and military use but in 1934 the civilian use was transferred to the newly built Elmdon airfield (now Birmingham International). In 1936 land adjacent to Castle Bromwich Aerodrome was acquired by the Air Ministry on which they built the Castle Bromwich aircraft factory (CBo58) where 59% of all Spitfires were built during the war.
- 3.7.2 The Castle Bromwich aircraft factory was established in Castle Bromwich to take advantage of the skilled labour that was locally available as a result of the establishment of a number of automotive factory sites and associated industries including the tyre works at Fort Dunlop (CBBo63). After the war Castle Bromwich aircraft factory was used for the manufacture of cars and the airfield itself was developed as the Castle Vale residential area.
- 3.7.3 The significance of these assets dating from the early 20th century is the historic evidence they provide for activity in the industrial areas of Birmingham during World War I and II.

 Birmingham was a target for bombing during World War II and the evidence from these assets show the efforts being made to continue producing and manufacturing and to combat the bombing raids.
- 3.7.4 The Bromford stretch of the M6 between junction 5 at Castle Bromwich and junction 6 at spaghetti junction was completed in 1971 and incorporates the Bromford Viaduct, the longest road viaduct in the country.

4 Built heritage

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 This section provides baseline information relating to built heritage assets within the land required for construction, 25om study area and wider 2km study area. The section provides the following information:
 - broad overview of the character and form of the settlement pattern within the area;
 - detailed descriptions of all built heritage assets wholly or partially within the land required for construction; and
 - detailed descriptions of key designated assets within the 250m study area.
- 4.1.2 Information on designated assets within the 2km study area, but outside of the 250m study area, can be found in the Gazetteer in Volume 5: Appendix CH-002-025 as can information on undesignated assets within the 250m study area.

4.2 Overview of settlement character

- 4.2.1 The settlement pattern within the study area reflects the transition from an open rural landscape characterised by manorial sites and farmsteads to a dense urban form of mixed residential, commercial and industrial character.
- Castle Bromwich is the single most dominant settled area within the study area. It 4.2.2 originated in the medieval period as a manorial settlement with a motte and bailey castle and in the post medieval period a substantial 17th century hall and landscaped garden. This formed the basis of a nucleated settlement that prospered during the 18th century and into the 19th century. Commercial and industrial developments of the late 19th century and early 20th century tended to focus on the north bank of the River Tame but ultimately gave rise to an increasing need for residential development brought about also by the sub-urban expansion of Birmingham eastwards along the River Tame valley. During the inter-war period areas of former open land on the west side of Castle Bromwich were bought up by private investors and developed to become the housing estates of Hodge Hill and Shard End. Post war development of the former Castle Bromwich aerodrome for residential at Castle Vale has resulted in a close juxtaposition of both residential development and industrial units on the north bank of the Tame. Closure of formal industrial units and regeneration to new uses as evidenced at Fort Dunlop is in turn resulting in a new form of urban character. On the south side of the river post-war housing was dominated by the high rise tower blocks of the Bromford Estate which though now refurbished still dominate the skyline. The M6 and railway occupy the valley floor, the former raised on a substantial viaduct.

Built Heritage assets within the land required for construction

4.2.3 There are no Built Heritage assets located within the land required for construction.

4.3 Key built heritage assets within 250m of the land required for construction

Castle Bromwich conservation area

- 4.3.2 Much of the historic core of Castle Bromwich, around the hall (CBBo35) and including the Grade II* registered park (CBo35) and scheduled motte (CBo44), is a designated conservation area (CBo76). The conservation area falls within the 25om study area. While the listed structures within the designated area fall outside this, they are considered here due to the contribution they make to the conservation area.
- 4.3.3 Although the conservation area coincides with the historic core of the village the dominant architectural style is of the inter-war period characterised by large traditional styled detached and semi-detached houses set within a mature streetscape with areas of established planting within large areas of open garden. The hall is the Grade I listed Castle Bromwich Hall lies at the centre of the conservation area set within extensive parkland that extends to the west. Other than those associated with the hall there are only four listed buildings in the conservation area comprising the Grade I listed church (CBBo49), the Grade II listed nos. 15 and 17 Chester Road (CBBo37), the Grade II listed Rectory (CBBo38) and the Grade II listed Birnam Millbrick (CBBo39).
- 4.3.4 The Church of St Mary and Margaret is a 15th century timber-framed structure that has been re-faced in red brick during the 18th century. The rebuilding was carried out at the request of Sir John Bridgeman, between 1726 and 1731 in order that the church, which is located to the north of the hall, was in keeping with the style and appearance of the hall. The church is situated in an elevated position overlooking the river valley and its brick west tower is prominent in the landscape.
- 4.3.5 Numbers 15 and 17 Chester Road are a pair of early 18th century brick houses that are located within an area otherwise dominated by inter-war and modern housing and apartment blocks. The rectory on the south side of Rectory Lane was built in 1910 in the Queen Anne style by local architect C.E. Bateman who also designed nos. 1 and 3 Rectory Lane known collectively as Birnam Millbrick.

Castle Bromwich Hall and registered Park

The Grade I listed Castle Bromwich Hall dates to the late 16th century, with modifications in the mid-17th and early 18th centuries, before a comprehensive enlargement in 1825-40, which saw the addition of the north-east tower block. The hall, now a hotel, was started by Sir Edward Devereux, but it is to Sir John Bridgeman that the majority of the site is attributed. The predominantly Jacobean hall is constructed on a courtyard plan with the main façade orientated to the south. The interior of the building is acknowledged as having significant survival of original decorative schemes, including painted ceilings by Louis Laguerre.

To the west of the hall is the service court comprising the Grade II* listed stable block (CBBo41), the Grade II* pigeon house (CBBo40), and the Grade I listed bakehouse (CBBo43). To the north and west are formal garden areas defined by Grade II listed brick garden walls (CBBo35), steps and pedestals (CBBo51) whilst to the front (south) is the forecourt which is entered via the Grade II* listed gatepiers (CBBo45). The south front of the hall overlooks the formal south approach avenue, which despite being partly overlain and bisected by new roads survives as a prominent landscaped avenue towards Heath Way, at Buckland End. The extensive formal gardens west of the hall give way to an area of formal parkland with clumps of mature planting.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the assets

- 4.3.8 The Grade II* registered park (CBBo35) provides a setting to the hall and contributes to its overall heritage values. The Hall and gardens are located on an elevated site overlooking the River Tame to the north. The Bromford Viaduct and M6 are dominant features in the foreground of this view but industrial developments and buildings including Fort Dunlop are visible on the rising ground beyond and provide the historical context for the continued development and urbanisation of this part of the valley. The residential areas that extend on the east side of the hall and its park provide an urbanised garden setting to the hall within which well-designed houses in the traditional style dominate providing a buffer to the more dense residential sprawl that characterises much of the urban area beyond the conservation area.
- 4.3.9 The hall, its gardens, outbuildings and the church form a significant group at the centre of the conservation area and are dominant forms in the urban streetscape. Despite the encroachment of modern housing development and the M6, the historic setting of the group remains legible.

Fort Dunlop

4.3.10 The Birmingham offices and main factory building of the Dunlop Rubber Company was designed by Stott and Gibbings in the 1920s, and is of a concrete clad steel frame with brick facing. The locally listed Grade A Dunlop Ltd Base Stores (Main Fort) building (CBBo63) was once the largest factory in the world and has recently been redeveloped as offices and a hotel.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the assets

4.3.11 The building remains an iconic local landmark and is, prominent in views from the M6
Bromford viaduct. Although many of the surrounding industrial units have been
developed and a new shopping centre created Fort Dunlop still retains its industrial and urban setting.

4.4 Key designated built heritage assets beyond 250m of the land required for construction

Castle Bromwich Settlement

- Much of the built up area beyond 250m of the land required for construction is of an undistinguished architectural character typical of a period of rapid urban expansion associated with Castle Bromwich settlement. Within the area, there are however, a number of structures and buildings such as the Grade II listed Bradford Arms (CBBo28) on the old Chester Road a former coaching inn of the 18th century which remain from an earlier period and evidence a period of a more rural character.
- The continued importance of the Chester Road as a throughfare into the 20th century is attested by the Tyburn public house, a Grade II listed building (CBBo6o) designed in the 1930s by C.E. Bateman a local architect of some renown responsible for a number of other buildings within the Castle Bromwich area. For the Tyburn, Bateman chose a mock Tudor style executed in stone, replacing the Georgian Inn that occupied the site until the 1920s. The building is a substantial 'L'-shaped structure, taking advantage of its corner position fronting both Kingsbury Road and Chester Road. Its design reflects the period of reform of public house buildings in the inter-war period when spacious new premises were being established within the expanding suburbs in an attempt to drive down inner-city drinking26. Other good examples of public houses within the study area include the Grade II listed Lad in the Lane on Bromford Lane (CBBo71) a building which has origins in the 15th century though significantly rebuilt in the 1930s.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the assets

The position of Castle Bromwich on a key access route has influenced the built form from an early date. As a result, the assets have easily blended into the urban landscape, with structures such as the Grade II listed Bradford Arms (CBBo₂8) adapting to its changing surroundings. Others have emerged as a direct result of this expansion, giving Castle Bromwich its current character. The current setting of these buildings, therefore, makes an important contribution to their significance.

Evidence for the rural landscape

4.4.5 Remnants of the historic open landscape are apparent within the study area, notably around Park Hall and Curdworth. Within this area, isolated farmsteads can be discerned, scattered through the landscape highlighting the agricultural exploitation of the area in the 18th and 19th centuries. Its division from the industrial and urban landscape of Birmingham is clearly marked by the A₃8 to the west and the Birmingham and Fazeley Canal to the south.

²⁶ Brandwood, G., Davidson, A. and Slaughter, M. (2011) *Licensed to Sell: The History and Heritage of the Public House*. English Heritage

Located at the edge of this division is the grade II listed Forge Farmhouse (CBBo27). The farmhouse dates to the 18th century and represents a simple two-storey stucco frontage. The building enjoys views of open agricultural fields to the north; however, to the rear, the setting of the building has been eroded with allotment gardens immediately to the south and industrial units to the west. Similarly Minworth Greaves Farmhouse (CBBoo6) provides evidence for late 18th/ early 19th century farming, despite the loss of its agricultural setting. The main farmhouse is grade II listed and extends over three storeys with symmetrical south façade punctuated by canted bay windows at ground-floor level. The immediate context of the building survives with barns and stables to the west, some showing evidence of earlier fabric. However, these have now been converted to residential use, with new build adjacent. The position of the farmhouse next to light industrial units, with the sewage works to the south, has removed any legibility of its historic setting.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the assets

The surviving agricultural buildings provide important information about the history of the study area. They reveal evidence of the historic use of the landscape, indicating isolated settlements which took advantage of the open landscape. Much of this character has been lost with the encroachment of the urban landscape and industrialisation of the study area. Where the buildings retain their agricultural setting this remains a key feature of their significance.

5 Historic map regression

- The earliest map that shows any detail within the study area was printed in 1603 by John Overton of London. This map is based upon the 1576 Christopher Saxton map, with a number of additions, including 60 new place names and some additional roads. The 1603 map shows Castle Bromwich and Park Hall. Park Hall is shown as a fenced off estate with woodland and a hall. No further elements are shown on this map, with the exception of the course of the River Tame.
- The earliest historic mapping that shows the study area in detail is the 1802 tithe map of Castle Bromwich. This tithe map does not cover the entire study area showing only the land to the south of the River Tame. An unnamed moat is shown to the north-west of Castle Bromwich Hall, to the west of the site of the motte. Neither the estate nor the village of Castle Bromwich are labelled on this map, but the layout of the hall and gardens can be seen, with an additional path shown to the north of London Road, directly north of the hall leading to a small round feature that is unlabelled on this map, but later described as a tumulus. The village of Castle Bromwich is shown as a linear settlement to the west of Castle Bromwich Hall. To the south of this is an area of preserved medieval strip fields labelled as The Hern Field. Between Castle Bromwich and Park Hall are a number of fields, only some of which are labelled with names such as Hurst Hill indicating the woodland origins of the area. The broader landscape as shown on this map is rural and agricultural, with small villages and groupings of buildings scattered around the landscape including Park Hall and Park Hall moat.
- The Fowler tithe map of 1833 covers only a small portion of the study area, to the south of the River Tame. Hay House is shown to the west, and to the south around Hodge Hill are a number of pools and water bodies that may have once been moats. A definite moat is shown to the north-west of Castle Bromwich Hall, but it is unlabelled. The designed avenues of trees leading to the north, south and west of Castle Bromwich Hall can clearly be seen on this map, although the motte is not marked here. To the east of Castle Bromwich are a number of large fields and Park Hall moat is shown. The estate of Park Hall itself is visible on the map and consists of a large building with a small number of smaller service buildings surrounding it. The estate abuts the line of the River Tame.
- The 1887 Ordnance Survey map (scale 1:10,560) shows a small, but significant, change in the character of the broader landscape. By 1887, the industry that had caused the massive expansion in the size and population of Birmingham had gradually begun to move into the outlying rural areas. A number of mills and brickworks have appeared within the study area. These include Hodgehill Brickworks, Bromford Mills and a nickel works to the northeast of Bromford. This increase in industrial premises was aided by the construction of the Birmingham to Derby branch of the Midland Railway, which cuts across the landscape Castle Bromwich station is shown located to the east of Old Chester Road, which was carried over the line of the railway by a bridge.

- 5.1.5 Although the map shows the introduction of industrial elements into the landscape, the general character of the area remains rural, with isolated settlements, farmsteads and high status dwellings. The remains of moated sites can be seen in proximity to many of the high status houses in the area, including Hay Hall moat situated to the south of the Proposed Scheme, a moat adjacent to Castle Bromwich Corn Mill, a moat to the north of Berwood Hall and Park Hall moat, to the south of Park Hall Farm. Land located in proximity to the River Tame is marked on the map as 'Liable to Floods' and indicated in some areas as marshy land. The areas marked as floodplain do not contain many field boundaries and were probably left for seasonal pasture or were incorporated into larger estates such as Castle Bromwich.
- 5.1.6 The 1905 Ordnance Survey map (scale 1:2,500) shows a widening of the Birmingham to Derby branch of the Midland Railway, with more tracks added to the line and the introduction of the Castle Bromwich curve linking the Birmingham and Derby Branch to the Walsall and Water Orton Branch of the London, Midland and Birmingham Railway. The map shows an increased area of land take around Castle Bromwich station to accommodate the extra track beds.
- The Birmingham Racecourse occupies land close to Hay Hall moat that earlier maps had identified as being liable to flood. The track is an elongated oval with an extra straight and turn located to the south and east with two grandstands constructed overlooking the final straight. Castle Bromwich golf course is identified south of the racecourse
- 5.1.8 The map shows extensive works to divert the River Tame from its earlier course which seems to have necessitated the removal of the Castle Bromwich mill. The map also shows the establishment of an extensive Sewage Farm. The need for an increase in large sewage farms is a direct result of the increasing population in Birmingham which was having an impact upon the outlying areas, even though the expanding city had not yet encroached into this area.
- Castle Bromwich is shown as having developed along Chester Road, with some development appearing behind the linear medieval settlement. The character of the eastern portion of the study area between Castle Bromwich and Park Hall has changed and the earlier large open field system has been divided into regular smaller land parcels. The evidence is of a changing landscape both in the rural economy and in accommodating new infrastructure developments to service an expanding city centre.
- The 1915–25 Ordnance Survey map (scale 1:2500) shows very little change from the previous map edition. There is a slight increase in the extent of sewage works and the 1925 Ordnance Survey map (scale 1:10,560) shows the presence of a number of small scale sand and gravel extraction pits located to the west of Castle Bromwich. These pits no doubt responding to an increased demand in raw materials for building. Though not identified as such the site of the Castle Bromwich aerodrome occupied land shown on the map as comprising playing fields.

- 5.1.11 A number of new industries are shown to have been established along the Bromford Road including the Aston China and Hooks Works and the Bromford Wire Works. The 1938 Ordnance Survey map (scale 1:10,560), shows there to have been a number of significant changes within the landscape. For the first time, it can be said that the general character of this area is no longer rural, but is now part of a buffer zone separating the urban conurbation of Birmingham from the surrounding countryside. Whereas the previous map showed a small increase in the number of industrial buildings, this map shows a massive increase in land take and development. The entire area to the north of the Birmingham and Fazeley Canal is shown as a housing development called Birches Green. It is not clear from the map if these houses have been constructed or whether the plots have been laid out, but Bromford Road has been widened and renamed Bromford Lane with a number of new roads created to serve the housing estate. Likewise to the south of the river there has been extensive housing development on the west side of Castle Bromwich.
- On the north side of the river and in an area south of the canal large areas of land have been set aside for industrial development and include the Fort Dunlop works and further to the east the 'Exhibition Hall' which was part of the Castle Bromwich aircraft factory works complex. The entire area north of the River Tame has either been developed or is in the process of being developed. The area around Park Hall Farm, Park Hall Moat and on the east side of Castle Bromwich is still however largely unaffected by the increase in industrial activity, retaining much of its rural character.
- 5.1.13 The 1955 Ordnance Survey map (scale 1:10,000) shows the transformation from a rural landscape to absorption into the urban sprawl of Birmingham as almost complete. Almost the entire study area has been subject to some level of development, with only the area around Park Hall remaining relatively free from development.
- Overall, this map is the first in the sequence that begins to show the study area as it appears today. The next set of maps date from 1967, 1968 and 1969 (scale 1:10,000) and these show little substantive change. The railway line has been widened with a number of sidings branching off to serve the factories and depots along the route. The expansion of Castle Bromwich has continued and spread further to the east along Water Orton Road. This has also necessitated the construction of a large school to the east of Park Hall moat to serve the expanded community.
- The 1970-78 Ordnance Survey map (scale 1:10,000) is only partially complete. The map depicts the M6 Bromford Viaduct and continuing residential and commercial developments in Castle Bromwich. Castle Bromwich railway station is shown as disused. On the north side of the river the Castle Vale residential development occupies the site of the former aerodrome.

All of the study area is shown on the 1980-86 Ordnance Survey mapping (scale 1:10,000). The western portion of the study area is now a mix of residential and industrial development, with the railway line and the M6 forming a border between the large industrial units to the north and the housing estates to the south. As suspected from the previous map, the Birmingham Racecourse is no longer extant and has been replaced with a housing estate. Also Hay Hall is no longer shown and with that, it seems likely that the moat has been built over. To the east of the A452 around the Castle Bromwich and Park Hall area, this map shows the extensive earthworks required to construct the M6, which runs adjacent to the A452. Both roads are shown on large embankments and cuttings through the previously undeveloped area of Park Hall. The moat is still shown, but the context of the site has been cut off by the M6 and A452, with Park Hall Farm lying to the north of the roads. To the west of Park Hall moat are a number of small plots of housing that are gradually infilling any remaining areas of open land within the study area.

6 Historic landscape

6.1 Historic landscape characterisation

- 6.1.1 The Solihull Historic Environment Record has undertaken an historic landscape characterisation which covers this study area. This has characterised the existing landscape into broad character types and individual units, allowing areas of surviving historic landscape to be identified and informs the following discussion.
- 6.1.2 The study area lies within national character area (NCA), Arden (NCA 97 Natural England (2012), which comprises a large part of the West Midlands formerly part of the Forest of Arden. The area is now predominantly of an urban character with commercial and industrial developments along the linear corridor created by the Derby Birmingham railway and M6. Within the study area, the character of the landscape reveals the historic transition from open landscape to dense urban development. Within this landscape there is evidence for the substantial manors that once dominated this area and the subsequent arrival of industry, motivated by the arrival of the canals and railways, and finally the establishment of the residential suburbs. It is this combination of industrial units and residential dwellings contrasting with the open landscape of the Park Hall nature reserve that characterises the current form of the study area.
- 6.1.3 Evidence for the historic origins of the study area remains legible, particularly within Castle Bromwich. The 12th century motte and bailey castle survives, although now essentially isolated on a traffic island adjacent to the M6. The wider Castle Bromwich settlement is better preserved due to the development of the site as a manor, enlarged and remodelled in the 16th and 18th centuries. The manor forms a cohesive character area with the hall, outbuildings and church set within a wider parkland. The gardens provide a valuable and well-used green space within the urban area. Inter-war and postwar housing estates characterise outlying areas of Castle Bromwich. Within this mass of housing are pockets of open space, within which are retained earlier 18th and 19th Century farmsteads. Pype Hayes Hall retains much of its open landscape setting as a result of its acquisition by Birmingham City Council in the 1920s and conversion in part to a golf course.
- 6.1.4 The manor at Park Hall, granted to the Arden family in the 14th century was eventually abandoned in the 17th century, probably as a result of flooding of the River Tame, which was subsequently diverted and channelled. The former deer park associated with the manor is legible within the existing landscape, including in an area of designated ancient woodland at Park Hall Wood. The open character of the area is retained within the present Park Hall nature reserve. To the south, the influence of the river network is also evident, particularly along the River Cole. The river corridor floodplain provides open recreational space for use of the surrounding residential areas. Historically, the river represented an important resource for agriculture and industry, with farms and mills establishing themselves along its route.

6.1.5 The former factories of the post-war period, interspersed with late 20th century industrial units and business parks are all arranged along the linear corridors defined by the River tame, the railway and more recently the M6. These industrial developments dominate the character of the study area due to their size and arrangement, creating a band of development between the M6 and the A38 Kingsbury Road/Tyburn Road.

6.2 Historic parks and gardens

- There is one Grade II* registered park and garden located within the study area; Castle 6.2.1 Bromwich Hall. The manor of Castle Bromwich was first mentioned in 1168, and in the 13 th century, the area was held by Roger de Somery as part of his Castle of Dudley. The overlordship then passed to Joan, widow of Thomas of Botetourt. The manor was purchased in 1572 by Sir Edward Devereux, Member of Parliament (MP) for Tamworth. Sir Edward built the present house, which is extant within the park and also incorporated the first formal gardens around the house. The estate was sold in 1657 to Sir John Bridgeman, who made extensive alterations to the house and gardens with input from the architect Captain William Winde. The gardens were extended to the west under the ownership of Sir John's son. The manor remained in the ownership of the Bridgeman family, despite the inheritance of the Newport Estate by Sir Orlando Bridgeman and the removal of the family seat to this estate. The hall was subsequently rented out until 1820, when the family returned. Upon their return, Lady Ida Bridgeman undertook the restoration and new design of the gardens within the framework of the existing designs. The hall is now used as a hotel and the gardens are open to the public.
- Many of the buildings within the park are listed in their own right, including Castle Bromwich Hall, which is listed at Grade I. The main entrances and approaches to the parkland are from the south and from an entrance to the east. The formal gardens are located to the west of the hall and are surrounded by a tall brick wall beyond which is the wilderness park. William Winde was responsible for the introduction of many of the features that now comprise the formal gardens, as evidenced by his correspondence with Lady Mary Bridgeman between 1685 and 1703. He suggests the addition of the wilderness, orchard, grove, walks and parterres. These designs were slightly altered by George London in 1701, when he suggested two more designs for the parterre in the Best Garden.
- An area of parkland extends west to Newport Road and within this area, the remnants of one of the main west-east axis survives. This was once lined with horse chestnuts, but is now in poor condition. The south avenue, part of the registered park is a prominent feature in the townscape and extends for 650m from the main gates. The formal approach is now bisected by several residential streets but retains its oak lined avenue.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the assets

- The garden provides a setting to the Grade I listed hall and the entire ensemble occupies an elevated position overlooking the river to the north. The church, though not included within the curtilage of the hall or within the registered park, has a close relationship arising from its proximity on the north side of the hall and its location on the east edge of the park. The church is a prominent feature in the landscape and its tower is a landmark particularly on views south from the elevated sections of the M6. The formal gardens are enclosed by substantial brick walls and there are few opportunities to gain views of the wider landscape setting from these areas. The parkland to the west is in contrast of a more open character and although there are elements of substantial mature planting both within the park and to along its edge the elevated position enables an appreciation of its wider landscape setting overlooking the Tame. This vantage point also enables an appreciation of the historic context of the park within a changing and increasingly urban landscape and the M6 and Fort Dunlop developments are particularly apparent in the view.
- Although the significance of the hall and park rely primarily on their intrinsic historic, archaeological and aesthetic values, the wider landscape setting of the park does contribute to an overall understanding of historic context. The setting of the hall is however more closely defined by its position within the park however the long formal view south along the avenue provides evidence for the status of the estate and its influence over the landscape that extended beyond its immediate curtilage.

7 Archaeological character

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 To determine the archaeological potential for the study area, it was sub-divided into archaeological character areas (ACA). These ACAs are derived from a consideration of the current topography, geology and current land use of the area. From these factors, the potential for recovery of archaeological remains are considered.
- 7.1.2 From these broad character areas, the landscape has been further subdivided into archaeological sub-zones (ASZ) (see maps CH-o₃-1₅6 to 1₅9), which have allowed for a more in-depth understanding of the archaeological potential of the study area. The study area has been sub-divided into 5 ASZs and a description of each is presented in Table 2: Archaeological sub zones. Although initially defined and characterised by current land use, a number of additional factors have determined the potential of these sub-zones to contain archaeological remains of significance. These factors include topography, geology, historic character and distribution of known archaeological finds, sites and assets.

7.2 Character areas

7.2.1 The ACAs described in the following extend from east to west within the study area.

Archaeological character area oo1: NWBC administrative area boundary to Park Hall Wood

7.2.2 The ACA is located on the eastern edge of Castle Bromwich and characterised by urban development that is diminishing in density with increasing areas of open land put to a variety of uses. Modern infrastructure dominates the area, which includes the M6. The zone to the west is defined by the distinct scarp slope of the River Tame, which form a southern edge to the area of activity within the Park Hall nature reserve and deposits associated with the River Tame and then comprises open land, which is currently used as a riding stable. Archaeological assets have not been previously identified in the zone.

Archaeological character area 002: Park Hall Wood including Park Hall nature reserve and area to the north of the Derby to Birmingham Line, to A4540

7.2.3 The ACA is located within the floodplain of the River Tame, although the natural course has been subject to realignment and canalisation as part of development. Extensive evidence of post-medieval and modern expansion of the city is present, including railway infrastructure and industrial activities, as well as modern infrastructure, including the M6. Evidence for earlier use of the area is shown through the presence of moats and watermills, the latter using the watercourses. Previous work within the Nechells area has identified Pleistocene deposits, although the extent of such deposits is uncertain. Within the area there are extensive areas of 'made ground' of variable depth associated with land raising activities for development. Given the waterlogged conditions that can be anticipated in the river valley areas, palaeo-environmental and other waterlogged deposits may be present.

7.3 Archaeological sub-zones

7.3.1 The ASZ are presented in Table 2: Archaeological sub zones from east to west. An indication of archaeological potential for each sub-zone is provided.

Table 2: Archaeological sub zones

No.	Name NWBC administrative	Topography The area is relatively flat lying	Geology/soils Triassic Mercia Mudstone with	Modern land use Modern urban development,	Historic landscape character Recreation,	Archaeology Multi-period assets have been
	area boundary to Chester Road.	at 8om AOD. To the south, a distinct scarp slope rises from 8om AOD to 100m AOD southwards.	bands of dolomitic sandstone and siltstone, overlain with sands and gravels.	including industrial and urban uses along with motorway, road and railway infrastructure.	transport corridor, utilities and managed land.	identified and in some instances are extant. These indicate extensive medieval occupation and utilisation of the landscape. Evidence of earlier Romano-British occupation is also present although this is limited.
25-002	NWBC administrative area boundary to Park Hall Wood	Area is gently rising to the south to 106m AOD and thereafter gently slopes down to the east.	Triassic Mercia Mudstone with bands of dolomitic sandstone and siltstone, overlain with sands and gravels.	Currently under agricultural use (grassland) and including a riding stables in part.	Agricultural and recreational.	No previous assets have been identified, although an area of ridge-and-furrow to the north-east has been identified from aerial photography. This suggests a low potential for archaeology.
25-003	Park Hall Wood to Tameside Drive.	The area is relatively flat, lying typically at 85m AOD, although there is local variation as a result of development and use of the area. A distinct scarp slope rising from 80m AOD to 100m AOD is present on the southeastern side of the area (Park Hall Wood). The former alignment of the River Tame is distinguishable within the area.	Mercia Mudstone overlain by glacial and alluvial deposits associated with the River Tame.	An undeveloped open area that is currently managed as a nature reserve (Park Hall nature reserve) containing grassland mixed scrub and woodland as well as areas of open water. A line of overhead electricity cable carried on pylons and a buried Esso pipeline cross the area.	Recreation, transport corridor, utilities and managed land.	Multi-period assets are represented, and specifically within the nature reserve, these include a prehistoric burnt mound, medieval ridge-and-furrow, a deer park boundary, saw pits that may be associated with woodland management, leats, along with a 17th century country house and associated features, including a walled garden and dovecot. There is, therefore, a high potential for archaeology to survive.

No.	Name Area to the north of Derby to Birmingham Line to Chester Road, Tameside Drive.	Topography The area is relatively flat, lying typically at 85m AOD, although there is local variation as a result of development and use of the area.	Geology/soils Mercia Mudstone overlain by glacial and alluvial deposits associated with the rivers Rea / Tame along with extensive areas of 'made ground' of variable thickness.	Modern land use Currently a business park to the east of Tameside Drive. Data review has identified that the area to the east of Tameside Drive contains three areas of landfill, which encompass much of the area. To the north of the Derby to Birmingham Line is a water treatment works and	Historic landscape character Industrial, transport corridor and 20th century residential.	Archaeology Previous development and activity will have resulted in the truncation and destruction of assets within the area of the business park east of Tameside Drive resulting in a low potential for archaeology to survive. Within the area to the north of the Derby to Birmingham Line, aerial photography identifies features that may survive.
25-005	Chester Road to A4540.	The area is relatively flat, lying typically at 85m AOD, although there is local variation as a result of development and use of the area. The southern scarp slope is discernible to the south and is increasingly apparent to the east.	Mercia Mudstone overlain by glacial and alluvial deposits associated with the rivers Rea / Tame along with extensive areas of 'made ground' of variable thickness.	recreational land. Modern urban development, including industrial and urban uses along with motorway, road and railway infrastructure. Areas of landfill are present within the industrial park east of Chester Road.	Transport corridor, industrial and commercial.	The river valley of the Tame has moderate potential to contain palaeo-environmental and other waterlogged remains. Evidence for use of the area during the medieval and later periods may also be present.

8 Analysis and research potential

8.1 Analysis of understanding

- 8.1.1 This baseline report presents the heritage baseline data for the study area. The report identifies and describes assets located within study area and provides a narrative chronology using historic map evidence and documentary research.
- 8.1.2 A number of designated assets have been identified within the study area. The majority of these are listed buildings, with 25 identified within the study area. Also within the study area are two scheduled monuments, one conservation area and one registered park and garden. The majority of these assets and a number of the listed buildings are associated with the settlement of Castle Bromwich. There are also two areas of ancient woodland consisting of separate elements of Park Hall Wood.
- 8.1.3 The baseline report has identified archaeological evidence dating from the Bronze Age through to the 20th century. Bronze Age evidence consists of burnt mounds, a distinctive archaeological feature common to the Birmingham area, typically located within low-lying river valleys and adjacent to watercourses. No prehistoric settlements have been found within the study area, but evidence from these burnt mounds may indicate settlements located on the higher, dryer ground. During the prehistoric and Roman periods, the landscape within the study area was heavily wooded located as it was within the Forest of Arden. This limited the potential for settlement, as woodland clearances would have involved a large amount of man power and resources.
- 8.1.4 Evidence for Roman activity has been recovered in the vicinity of Castle Bromwich, but there is no archaeological evidence for continuity of activity into the early medieval period. Small scale woodland clearances took place in the Roman period to provide material for fuel and construction. The scale of the woodland clearances grew during the early medieval period, but as yet, there is no archaeological evidence from this period. Documentary evidence from the Domesday Survey indicates that 'Bromwich' was in existence by 1086, but only as a small hamlet and not recorded separately. This indicates that evidence for early medieval activity may have been removed by later development and as settlements grew over the following centuries.
- 8.1.5 Despite the industrial and residential appearance of the study area, the baseline report has demonstrated large amounts of evidence from the medieval and post-medieval periods. The focus of medieval activity is on the areas of Park Hall and Castle Bromwich, although there were a number of other medieval assets that have since been removed by later development. In particular, a number of moats have been identified within the study area; these are a common feature within the West Midlands.
- 8.1.6 Much of the study area has been developed, which has removed evidence of the preindustrial landscape; however, pockets of historic landscape do survive. At Park Hall, the
 medieval layout is preserved as part of the nature reserve, although many of the
 individual assets are no longer extant or visible above ground. In contrast, Castle
 Bromwich retains much of its post-medieval context, with the 16th century hall and
 service buildings surviving within the registered park and garden.

- 8.1.7 Within the study area, the historic built environment reflects the transition from open landscape to modern urban landscape. There is evidence for the substantial manors that once dominated this area and the subsequent arrival of industry, motivated by the establishment of the canals and finally the formation of residential suburbs. While isolated examples of post-medieval buildings survive within post-war housing estates, it is to the east of the study area that their preservation is better understood, with traces of their landscape setting. In contrast, the urban sections to the west reveal evidence of social reform, with the establishment of public houses and libraries. Despite the encroachment of modern housing developments and the establishment of the M6 corridor, the setting of the historic built environment remains tangible, varying from the designed landscape of Castle Bromwich to the urban context of the suburb.
- 8.1.8 Although there is only a small amount of archaeological evidence from the modern period, the study area saw massive changes during the 19th and 20th centuries. The assessment has shown that documentary and cartographic evidence is more useful to chart the expansion of Birmingham city centre and the growth of industry. Historic maps show that by 1938, the amount of land take for residential development and industrial works, such as Fort Dunlop, is extensive within the western half of the study area, which is now enveloped by development. Following this, expansion continued eastwards, including the construction of the M6 and other major transport networks. The only exception to this construction programme is the area surrounding Park Hall, which is now set aside as a nature reserve.
- 8.1.9 Therefore, the potential for the survival of buried archaeological deposits in the study area is reduced to those areas that have seen the least intensive modern development. The preservation of Park Hall gives the study area a dual character, with the urban conurbation to the west and the rural Park Hall area to the east where the potential for archaeological survival is high.

8.2 Archaeological potential

- 8.2.1 The study area contains some areas of archaeological potential; however, these have been limited by the extensive modern development that has taken place in the 20th century. This is the case particularly in the western portion, which has been entirely developed during the 20th century.
- 8.2.2 The area surrounding the River Tame has the potential to contain palaeo-environmental deposits that may contain evidence of the prehistoric environment. These deposits have the potential to answer questions regarding possible early human exploitation of the environment, such as evidence of tree clearances or particular crop cultivation.
- 8.2.3 The area of Park Hall contains a number of heritage assets from a range of periods. The identified assets include a possible Bronze Age burnt mound through to a medieval moat and parkland. This area has seen relatively little modern development, and therefore, the potential for the recovery of material dating from the medieval and post-medieval period is high. In addition to the identified medieval deposits, due to the presence of the River Tame flowing through this area and the already identified burnt mound, there is the potential for the recovery of further Bronze Age burnt mounds in the locations adjacent to the river.

8.3 Research potential and priorities

8.3.1 This section presents research questions which are specific to the heritage assets, either known or suspected, within the study area.

Early Prehistory

- 8.3.1 There is a paucity of evidence from this period in terms of artefactual evidence and data relating to the environmental conditions present. The following research potential and priorities have been identified:
 - can evidence of occupation or utilisation of the landscape be identified to provide an insight into the utilisation of the landscape?;
 - to what degree did the presence of the River Tame influence the location of settlement and landscape utilisation?; and
 - to what degree can palaeo-environmental data, particularly anticipated waterlogged deposits within the River Tame valley, contribute to a greater understanding of the prevailing environmental conditions?.

Later Prehistory

- 8.3.2 Evidence for occupation during this period is sparse and poorly understood. The following research potential and priorities have been identified:
 - can further information be gained to provide a greater understanding of the nature and extent of occupation and utilisation of the landscape?;
 - do palaeo-environmental data, particularly waterlogged conditions anticipated within the River Tame valley, have the potential to contribute to an understanding of the environmental conditions present at the time?; and
 - can the presence of the River Tame be identified as an influencing factor on the location of settlement and landscape utilisation?.

Romano-British

- 8.3.3 Evidence for occupation and utilisation of the landscape is sparse. The following research potential and priorities have been identified:
 - to what degree is this a true reflection of the utilisation of the landscape during this period?; and
 - can further evidence of the activity possibly associated with that previously found at Bromwich Castle be located?.

Early medieval

8.3.4 There is a lack of evidence for occupation during this period, apart from place name evidence relating to the principal settlements. The following research potential and priorities have been identified:

- is this a true reflection of the nature of activity or has evidence from this period previously not been recognised?; and
- is there evidence of occupation or landscape utilisation associated with Castle Bromwich, which may have its foundations during this period?.

Medieval

- 8.3.5 Within the study area there are a considerable number of assets of this period which represent distinct aspects of the utilisation of the landscape. The following research potential and priorities have been identified:
 - how do these elements interact and relate to the wider landscape?;
 - to what degree do these conceal evidence for earlier occupation?; and
 - how do these interact and relate to the former course of the River Tame?.

Post medieval and 20th century/modern

- 8.3.6 Evidence of occupation during this period is primarily dominated by the Park Hall Great House and later development associated with railway and motorway infrastructure. The following research potential and priorities have been identified:
 - to what degree can the surviving elements of the Park Hall Great House contribute to the understanding of the country house and comparisons to others, in the region of a similar date?.

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